

the claims were amended to reflect this subject matter, and subject to formal response, which follows.

### **In the Claims**

#### **Rejections under 35 USC §103**

1. No response was required to this paragraph.
2. The examiner has also rejected claim 1 as being unpatentable over Philips (US Patent No. 2,529,961 in view of Fuller (US Patent No. 6,368,171), further in view of Martin (US Patent No. 5,899,782), under §103(a). During the interview mentioned above, it was agreed that subject matter in the application was patentable, subject to claim amendment. Applicant has agreed to these terms, and amended the claims (seen below) to clarify the allowable structure.
- 3-4. No response was required to these paragraphs.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the above amendments and remarks, I believe that all of the claims in the case are allowable and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference will expedite the disposition of this matter, he/she is respectfully invited to contact this attorney at the number shown below.

Date: April 20, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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## CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

- 1) (Cancelled) A float tube cover for use with inflated, resilient ring-shaped tubes; the float tube cover comprising:

a cloth cover designed to stretch around an exterior of an inflated ring-shaped tube;

the cloth cover being provided with a number of attachment clasps along an inner edge thereof for securing the cloth cover over the inflated ring-shaped tube;

the float tube cover further including a hand leash that is attachable at one end thereof to a wrist of a user and permanently attachable to an attachment clasp of the cloth cover at the other end;

the cloth cover including one or more pockets for storing items for use while engaged in tubing on a body of water.

- 2) (Added) A float tube cover for use with inflated, resilient ring-shaped tubes; the float tube cover comprising:

a cloth cover designed to stretch around an exterior of an inflated ring-shaped tube;

said cloth cover being provided with a four attachment clasps spaced in an equidistant relationship along an inner edge thereof for securing said cloth cover over said inflated ring-shaped tube;

said float tube cover further including a hand leash that is attachable at one end thereof to a wrist of a user and permanently attachable to an attachment clasp of the cloth cover at the other end;

said cloth cover including one or more pockets for storing items for use while engaged in tubing on a body of water.

- 3) (Added) A float tube cover for use with inflated, resilient ring-shaped tubes; the float tube cover comprising:

a cloth cover designed to stretch around an exterior of an inflated ring-shaped tube;

said cloth cover being provided with a at least three attachment clasps spaced in an equidistant relationship along an inner edge thereof for securing said cloth cover over said inflated ring-shaped tube;

said float tube cover further including a hand leash that is attachable at one end thereof to a wrist of a user and permanently attachable to an attachment clasp of the cloth cover at the other end;

said cloth cover including one or more pockets for storing items for use while engaged in tubing on a body of water.

4) (Added) A float tube cover for use with inflated, resilient ring-shaped tubes; the float tube cover comprising:

a cloth cover designed to stretch around an exterior of an inflated ring-shaped tube;

said cloth cover being provided with at least two attachment clasps spaced in an equidistant relationship along an inner edge thereof for securing said cloth cover over said inflated ring-shaped tube;

said float tube cover further including a hand leash that is shaped to snugly attach at one end thereof a substantial portion of the circumference of the wrist of a user and permanently attachable to an attachment clasp of the cloth cover at the other end;

said cloth cover including one or more pockets for storing items for use while engaged in tubing on a body of water.